

THE POTENTIAL OF EXPLORING HOUSEHOLD EVERYDAY PRACTICES FOR A GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH OF PERIPHERALISATION

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Abstract: During the last three decades “household” has experienced an increasing importance as a locus of human geography and social science studies. The reasons behind this interest are multi-fold and include: (1) changes in socio-demographic processes, (2) a “cultural turn” in social sciences giving conceptual importance to everyday practices and sites where negotiations between structural factors and agency of actors is taking place and (3) an increasing interest shown in “embeddedness perspective” that offers seeing household as a node in networks of broader social and economic structures. In attempts to map the outcomes of systemic transformation to the daily lives and contribute to wider geographical debates, there has been an increasing number of studies concerned with household everyday practices in post-socialist Central and Eastern Europe. However, this paper argues that these accounts tend to overrepresent economic readings by focusing on the modes of social provision, while paying minor attention to analyses and lessons from other social science disciplines concerned with social, cultural, religious, demographic and other aspects. Therefore by drawing on a close reading of debates on scale and practice-oriented approaches, this paper argues that the analytical potential of household everyday practices for a geographical research in post-socialist Central and Eastern Europe has not been sufficiently explored. The paper concludes by attempting to identify meaningful ways for exploration of household everyday practices as analytical categories in a geographical research on peripheralisation.